

CBIA statement in support of the nomination of Robert Klee**as commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection**

Good afternoon. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as associate counsel and director of environmental and energy policy for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). Thank you for this opportunity to testify, on behalf of our roughly 10,000 member companies throughout Connecticut, in strong support of the nomination of Robert Klee as the next commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP).

I have had the good fortune to work with Mr. Klee over the past three years in his position of chief-of-staff for former commissioner Dan Esty. I have come to know him as a thoughtful, intelligent, hard-working and personable individual having a range of skills that are essential for leading a large organization with very diverse responsibilities and stakeholders.

Mr. Klee has already made time in his frenetic first few weeks to meet with over 100 business people at an event last week hosted by CBIA's Environmental Policies Council. At that forum, he demonstrated a broad and keen understanding of the issues facing regulated businesses in Connecticut and conveyed a strong sense of confidence that the agency will continue its progress in making Connecticut a more attractive place for businesses to grow and families to settle, through innovation that maintains our state's long commitment to high standards of environmental quality while lightening our regulatory burdens.

I would also like to note a particular observation I made when Mr. Klee was introduced to the DEEP staff as the governor's nomination for commissioner. The standing ovation was sustained and genuine. Clearly, in his time as chief of staff at the agency, Mr. Klee has earned the respect and admiration of staff at all levels and in all programs within the DEEP. I believe few, if any previous commissioners have begun their term with such a repository of good will among their colleagues.

CBIA appreciates all the good work Mr. Klee has achieved in his time as chief-of-staff and we look forward to continuing to work with him and the high quality staff he leads, in his new role as commissioner.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to testify.